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RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY 9220

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: MEDIA REACTION - COLOMBIA, FARC, SCO PAULO

August 3, 2009

Title- More balance

Editorial in liberal Folha de S.Paulo (8-3) states: "...Colombia's relation with its 'Bolivarian' neighbors Venezuela and Ecuador is once more going through a delicate moment. The reason for the disagreement is the expansion of the U.S. military acting in Colombian territory.....Brazil is right in expressing apprehension over what looks like a strategy by the superpower of increasing its military presence in the region. It is not good for the Hemisphere that imbalances and propitious conditions for a military race are created.It is worth noting that the Venezuelan President closed military deals with Russia and offered installations for that country's [military] forces. The Brazilian government said nothing about it. Brazil is in a position to play a relevant role in the regional and international scenario. But, without equilibrium, the risk is that it loses the confidence and the respect needed for this mission."

WHITE